IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

In re the Application of:

K. YANO et al.

Application No.: 09/926,709

Filed: December 5, 2001

Confirmation No.: 2869

Art Unit: 1731

Examiner: M. Alvo

Attorney Dkt. No.: 103176-00001

ASSISTANT FOR DIGESTING LIGNOCELLULOSE MATERIAL

AND METHOD FOR PRODUCING PULP

PETITION FOR EXTENSION OF TIME

Commissioner for Patents P.O. Box 1450

Alexandria, Virginia 22313-1450

Date: December 12, 2003

Sir:

Applicants petition for an extension of time for one month for response to the outstanding Office Action dated November 6, 2003 from December 6, 2003 to January 6, 2004. Attached is our check in the amount of \$110.00.

The Commissioner is hereby authorized to charge any fee deficiency or credit any overpayment associated with this communication to Deposit Account No. 01-2300, referencing Docket No. 103176-00001.

Respectfully submitted,

12/16/2003 JBALINAN 00000009 09926709

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110.00 OP

Registration No. 37,500

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